Expenditure on account of Vaikam Satyagraha.

374. MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a detailed statement showing the expenditure incurred up to date by them in connection with the *Satyagraha* movement at Vaikam?

(*b*) If not, will the Government be pleased to state the total amount of the expenditure incurred up to date in connection with the movement?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether this expenditure is to be charged to the general revenues or to any particular fund, and if the latter, to which fund?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) and (*b*) Information will be called for.

(*c*) The question is under the consideration of the Government.

Vaikam Satyagraha.

375. MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): (*a*) Is the road round the Vaikam temple a public road?

(*b*) In view of the strong public opinion in and outside Travancore, will the Government be pleased to state whether they cannot find their way to solve this difficult problem by making some timely concession at least in favour of those classes whose distance of pollution, according to conservative and orthodox opinion, is but nominal and small?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) and (*b*) These questions are covered by a resolution which has been balloted for discussion at this meeting of the Council.

Attitude of Government regarding the Claim of Non-caste Hindus at Vaikam.

376. MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state what exactly is the position of the Government in regard to the claim of the non-caste Hindus to use the roads round the Vaikam temple?

(*b*) Do the Government recognise untouchability and unapproachability?

(*c*) If the Government think that the claim is just, will they be pleased to state why they do not take steps to protect it instead of obstructing it?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to state the grounds on which they have taken the present attitude in regard to the matter?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) to (*d*) The member is referred to the answer to question No. 375.

MR. K. PARAMESAVRAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Will Mr. Krishna Pillai be pleased to state how the answer to my question is covered by the resolution tabled by Mr. M. N. Pillai?

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[Mr. K. Parameswaran Pillai.]

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The ruling of the President cannot be questioned.

PRESIDENT: I do not think there is any ruling in the matter.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Mr. M. N. Pillai's resolution is: "This Council recommends to the Government that the roads surrounding the temple wall at Vaikam be thrown open to all people irrespective of caste." The position of the Government will be explained during the discussion of that resolution.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Have the Government taken any action in this matter till now?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): In regard to what matter?

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): In regard to the prohibition of non-caste Hindus from passing through the roads round the Vaikam temple, have the Government already taken any action?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I should like to know what sort of action he means.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Any action for the purpose of preventing non-caste Hindus from walking along the roads round the Vaikam temple wall.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The District Magistrate has issued an order prohibiting certain classes of people from walking along those roads. That is the action taken by the District Magistrate and not by the Government.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Have the Government issued any order in regard to that matter?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government have ratified the order of the District Magistrate.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I know the grounds on which the Government have taken the present attitude?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): During question time it is not possible to discuss the grounds on which action has been taken by the Government.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): The answer given is: "These questions are covered by a resolution which has been balloted for discussion at this meeting of the Council." I submit that my question is not connected with this resolution.

PRESIDENT: I think it is covered by the resolution.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): It may be covered. May I know the grounds for the present action taken by the Government?

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MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): As already stated by me,question time is not the occasion for discussing the grounds.

PRESIDENT: You may ask for additional information during question time. That is what Mr. Krishna Pillai says.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Is that the rule?

PRESIDENT: I suppose that is what generally applies to questions.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Standing Order No. 36 says—

"No discussion shall be permitted in respect of any question or of an answer given to any question."

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): I am not discussing. I ask for the grounds for the present attitude of Government and the Chief Secretary says he cannot give the grounds. Is it right?

PRESIDENT: Are there no rules about questions?

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): The rules do not cover such a case.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The rule says :—

"No question shall be asked unless it complies with the following conditions viz.—

(a) it shall relates to a single matter.

(b) It shall be so framed as to be merely a request for information."

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): I am asking for a single matter, *viz.*, the grounds for the particular action taken by the Government.

PRESIDENT: You want the grounds as a piece of information as I take it.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Is the Chief Secretary prepared to give out the grounds for the action taken by the Government?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Does he not think that he has had sufficient notice already?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know whether the Chief Secretary is at liberty to decline to answer the question when the question has been admitted, on the ground that a resolution that has been tabled covers the same ground?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes; that is the practice.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Under what particular rules?

PRESIDENT: That is the practice in all legislatures.

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[Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : If the member in charge will kindly draw my attention to any of our rules or orders I shall be very much enlightened by it. No doubt there are rules prohibiting the admission of certain questions, but once a question has been admitted, are the Government in a position to decline to answer that question?

PRESIDENT: The member may claim notice if he is not prepared to answer a supplementary question.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): The main question has not been answered.

PRESIDENT: That is the Parliamentary practice and the practice in all other legislatures.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): I have asked a question: "Will the Government be pleased to state the grounds on which they have taken the present attitude in regard to the matter?" I think the question now raised is whether the Chief Secretary is competent to decline to answer that question on the ground that a resolution in some way connected with that matter has been tabled.

PRESIDENT: Not in "some way connected." I think Mr. Krishna Pillai is quite right, because the time of discussion of the resolution is the proper occasion when the grounds for any action taken by the Government should be discussed and argued about. Therefore, if a resolution has been tabled for discussion on that particular matter, I think it is quite in order for the member in charge to say that he does not propose to answer that question.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I also know, if the Government have already taken a particular attitude in regard to this matter and a resolution has been tabled for the purpose of recommending a different action, whether it is out of order for a member to ask a question as to the grounds for a particular action already taken by the Government?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The answer to that question raises a question of policy which has to be discussed at length when the resolution tabled for discussion is taken up. I do not think that question time is the proper occasion to elicit the information. The grounds cannot be laid down categorically as (1), (2) and (3). The policy which the Government have pursued will be better discussed at resolution time.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Suppose the resolution that is tabled is not moved by the member who has sent in the resolution or the resolution itself does not come up for discussion. In such a case how is the question to be answered?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): It is open to the member to repeat the question.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Under what rule does he say that, if a resolution has been tabled regarding the

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action taken by the Government in a particular matter, a question requesting the Government to explain their position in regard to that matter should not be answered?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): In matters that are not expressly provided for in the rules, the procedure obtaining in other legislatures is followed.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyttinkara*): May I ask Mr. Subba Aiyar to quote any authority or precedent for his position?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I believe, even in this Council, with reference to Mr. Khadir Pillai's question *in re* "Friday being declared a public holiday", the same answer was given.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I want an authority from the practice elsewhere.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I am not in a position to quote chapter and verse immediately. I will do so later on if he desires.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): "Do the Government recognise untouchability and unapproachability?", that is one of my questions. Is it proper for the Chief Secretary to say that that is also covered by Mr. M. N. Pillai's resolution? Is it covered by that resolution? It is only with regard to the Vaikam temple that the resolution has been tabled.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): This is the wording of the resolution. "This Council recommends to the Government that the roads surrounding the temple walls at Vaikam be thrown open to all people irrespective of caste."

PRESIDENT: Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai wants to know whether part (*b*) of his question is covered by the resolution.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I believe it is.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I know how?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I rise to a point of order—whether the Chief Secretary is the person to say whether the question is covered by a resolution? I think it is a point of order for the President to rule and not for the member in charge.

PRESIDENT: He is to answer the supplementary question.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): The Chief Secretary is, no doubt, to answer the supplementary question: but what has been raised by Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai is a point of order.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): No, no, it is not a point of order.

PRESIDENT: I have already given my ruling on that point of order.

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[Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

Mr. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): In view of the fact that the resolution is not likely to be discussed, will the Chief Secretary be pleased to state the grounds for the present attitude of the Government in this matter?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not know whether the resolution will not come up for discussion today.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Supposing it is not discussed, shall I expect an answer at the end of the session?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I cannot say that just now.

PRESIDENT: We do not answer questions except during the first hour.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): For the information of Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai, who wanted a precedent from elsewhere, I will read this from May's *Parliamentary Practice*:—

"Nor may the question refer to debates, or answers to questions in the current session. Discussion in anticipation upon an order of the day or other matter by means of a question is not permitted."

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know from Mr. Subba Aiyar whether the whole procedure that obtains in the House of Commons in England—I mean the Parliamentary procedure—would be applicable here?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): In matters not provided for in the rules, it may be applied.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is it a question of "*may*" or "*shall.*"

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): It is a matter entirely left to the President to regulate. I only say that the matter is not without precedent, and as Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai asked me to quote a precedent, I quoted it.

PRESIDENT: Rules cannot cover all conceivable situations. We have to be guided by the practice obtaining elsewhere also.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): The statement of a fact regarding an action taken by the Government does not amount to discussion. It is only stated in Mr. Subba Aiyar's quotation that no discussion would be permitted. The member asks only for a statement from the Government.

PRESIDENT: In this particular case the matter is covered by a resolution which is to be discussed.

Staff Selection Board.

377. MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they will appoint a board of

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